

legislation. Small businesses such as ours must obtain as much available information as possible and do their best to live by the letter of the law. Then because this act is [complicated], hope and pray to not get penalized.

The law-abiding citizens of this country shouldn't have to pray for leniency from their own government. Last I checked, the government existed to help the public, not to antagonize it.

After ramming the law through Congress the way he did, ignoring the warnings all these things would happen, ignoring the will of the American people, honesty and transparency is the very least President Obama owes the American public at this point. What he needs to do, actually, is join with Republicans in agreeing to repeal this job-killing law. He needs to acknowledge the need to scrap it and replace it with the types of commonsense reforms that will lower cost, because this law is not working. I think he already knows that. Republicans certainly know it. And more and more Democrats are coming around to that realization too. So let's skip the scripted campaign events and actually work together to get something positive done for jobs, health care, and our economy. If President Obama is willing to work with us, we are here and ready to get to work.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak up to 10 minutes each, and with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half.

The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 20 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, following the leader's comments about the health care law, I found it interesting this morning to pick up the New York Times and see the headline above the fold, on the front page: "New Worries for Democrats on Health Law." In the very first sentence, it says:

Democrats are worried that major snags will be exploited by Republicans in next year's mid term elections.

I would say Democrats ought to be worried about the fact there are going to be major problems with this health

care law—a health care law that was forced through the Senate, forced through the House, without listening to the American people. That is the concern Democrats ought to have, because the American people's health is being jeopardized as a result of the law we are now facing.

So I come to the floor today to talk a little about what we have learned about the President's health care law over the last week—the week we have been away traveling our States, visiting with people at home. It has been all over the headlines and it is also on the minds of the American people. It certainly was in Wyoming. As I talk to colleagues from around the country, they have heard a lot about this as they traveled their home States.

When we go back home to our States, a lot of Senators hear from their constituents about how worried they are about how this specific law is going to affect their care, their jobs, and their paychecks. It is what I heard this last week, and it is no different than what I have heard week after week after week.

I practiced medicine for 25 years, and I hear from patients who are worried about a new layer of Washington bureaucrats who are going to be sitting now between them and their doctor. I hear from families who are worried they won't be able to keep the insurance they have now, even though the President promised them they would be able to keep the insurance they have if they like it. I hear from employers who are worried they won't be able to afford all of the law's new requirements. That is what people are telling me when I travel the State of Wyoming.

This is interesting. According to the newspaper "The Hill," which came out last week, Wednesday, May 1, I am not the only one. Here is the headline on the front page of the paper recently: "Botched ObamaCare Tops Dem Fears for '14.'"

Of course, that is a reference to the 2014 elections. The article talks about how anxious a lot of Washington Democrats are about the law they voted for. It talks about how, if the rest of the law's implementation doesn't go well, voters are going to know exactly who to blame.

Democratic candidates across the country know about it. That is why we see a Democratic candidate running today in this special congressional election in South Carolina trying to distance herself from the health care law. How did she do it? Let's turn the tape back to last week's debate in a congressional race: Special election, South Carolina. Here is what she had to say.

Obamacare is extremely problematic, it is expensive, it is a \$500 billion higher cost than we originally anticipated, it's cutting into Medicare benefits, and it's having companies lay off their employees because they are worried about the cost of it. That is extremely problematic.

That is a Democrat, running for Congress, who said that last week. The election is today.

Another Democrat, the chairman of the Energy Committee, had this to say.

There is a reason to be very concerned about what's going to happen with young people. If their premiums shoot up, I can tell you, that is going to wash into the United States Senate in a hurry.

Well, I agree with the chairman of the Senate Energy Committee. So what are the prospects for implementation? Well, one of the key architects of the law, another Democrat, says he sees "a huge train wreck coming down." That is what Senator BAUCUS said, and I think he is right; we are headed for a train wreck. That is what concerns the people I talk to—all those patients, the employers, the families I mentioned.

So what does the President have to say about this? Well, he was asked about it the other day at a press conference. The President's answer went on for more than 1,000 words, but it came down to one thing. He said:

For the 85 to 90 percent of Americans who already have health insurance, this thing has already happened. They do not have to worry about anything else.

Can that really be what the President thinks? He even repeated the idea a couple of times. He said 90 percent of Americans don't have to worry. I would say, with all due respect to the President, people are worried, and they have every right to worry. There are many parts of this law that still have not "already happened," in spite of what the President says. Those things are going to give the American people a lot more to worry about.

In fact, the Washington Post Fact Checker looked into what the President said—what the President claimed during his news conference. The Fact Checker found the President ignored the fact—completely ignored the fact—that 10 million people face the prospect of losing their current health care. The Fact Checker went on to cite a report from the Congressional Budget Office that said millions of people are going to be priced out of the insurance they have now—insurance that works for them. That is because of all the expensive extras the new government-approved insurance is going to have to cover, and which is also government mandated.

The Post pointed out:

... even unions, which were big supporters of the law, have grown wary because it may drive up costs for their health-care plans.

Twenty million people are covered by those plans the unions are worried about. The Washington Post Fact Checker also cited \$1 trillion in tax increases in the law, which is going to hurt a lot more people.

The Medicare Actuary predicts 15 percent of hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and home health agencies could leave the Medicare Program by 2019. These are our seniors. These are people who have continued to pay into the program. Yet we see these other groups saying we have had enough. Why? Because of the cuts to the programs and the payments the President